

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31 and 36. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus, which performs [[a]] an image processing service provided by a first operating instruction about image processing and a second operating instruction about image processing in association with a different image processing apparatus accessible across a network, comprising:

registration means for registering in advance predetermined registration information for a user who is authorized to use said apparatus;

input means for use by the user to enter user information and ~~a request~~ for the first operating instruction for the different apparatus;

first authentication means for employing the predetermined registration information registered by said registration means and the user information entered by the user at said input means to determine whether the first operating instruction is authorized for the user;

transmission means for, based on results obtained by said first authentication means, transmitting to the different apparatus the second operating instruction and the user information entered at said input means;

second authentication means for obtaining from the different apparatus results of an authentication process, performed for the user information received from said transmission means, to determine whether the second operating instruction is authorized for the user on the different apparatus; and

determination means for employing the results obtained by said second authentication means to determine whether the user is to be permitted to use the image processing service.

Claim 2 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined registration information and the user information each includes at least a user ID and a password.

Claim 3 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

scanner means for reading a document,

wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for printing image data read by said scanner means using a printer function of the different apparatus.

Claim 4 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

scanner means for reading a document,

wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for storing, in a predetermined area, image data read by said scanner means using a storage function of the different apparatus.

Claim 5 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

scanner means for reading a document,

wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting, to a predetermined destination, image data read by said scanner means by using a facsimile transmission function of the different apparatus.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus that performs [[a]] an image processing service provided by a first operating instruction and a second operating instruction about image processing in cooperation with a different image processing apparatus accessible across a network, comprising:

registration means for registering, in advance, predetermined registration information for a user who is permitted to use said apparatus;

reception means for receiving user information and ~~a request~~ for the second operating instruction for said apparatus, both of which are entered by the user at the different apparatus on the network;

authentication means for employing the predetermined registration information registered by said registration means and the user information received by said reception means to determine whether the user is an authorized user, wherein the second operating instruction is received after the first operating instruction is authenticated to be performed on the different apparatus; and

determination means for employing results obtained by said authentication means to determine whether ~~the request~~ for the second operating instruction received by said reception means is to be accepted.

Claim 7 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined registration information and the user information each includes at least a user ID and a password.

Claim 8 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

printing means for outputting data to a printer,

wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for employing said printing means to print image data read by a scanner function of the different apparatus.

Claim 9 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

storage means for storing data,

wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for employing said storage means to store image data read by a scanner function of the different apparatus.

Claim 10 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

facsimile transmission means for transmitting data by facsimile,

wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating

instruction is an instruction for employing said facsimile transmission means to transmit, to a predetermined destination, image data read by a scanner function of the different apparatus.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A communication system comprised of at least a first image processing device that performs ~~[[a]]~~ an image processing service in association with a second image processing device accessible across a network,

wherein said first image processing device comprises:

first registration means for registering in advance predetermined registration information for a user who is authorized to use said first image processing device;

input means for use by the user to enter user information and ~~a request for~~
~~an a first~~ operating instruction about image processing for said second image processing device;

first authentication means for employing the predetermined registration information registered by said first registration means and the user information entered by the user at said input means to determine whether ~~[[a]]~~ the first operating instruction is authorized for the user;

transmission means for, based on results obtained by said first authentication means, transmitting to said second image processing device the user information and ~~the a second~~ operating instruction about image processing entered ~~at said input means by the~~
user, and

wherein said second image processing device comprises:

second registration means for registering, in advance, predetermined registration information for a user who is permitted to use said second image processing device ~~to perform a second operating instruction;~~

reception means for receiving the user information and ~~a request for the~~ second operating instruction for said second image processing device, both of which are entered by the user at said first image processing device;

second authentication means for employing the predetermined information registered by said second registration means and the user information received by said reception means to determine whether the second operating instruction is authorized for the user; and

determination means for employing results obtained by said second authentication means to determine whether ~~the request for the~~ second operating instruction received by said reception means is to be accepted.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A communication system according to claim 11, wherein the predetermined registration information and the user information each includes at least a user ID and a password.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A communication system according to claim 11, wherein said first device further comprises scanner means for reading a document and said second device further comprises printing means for printing data, and wherein the operating instruction is an instruction for employing said printing means to print image data read by said scanner means.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A communication system according to claim 11, wherein said first device further comprises scanner means for reading a document and said second device further comprises storage means for storing data, and wherein the operating instruction is an instruction for employing said storage means to store image data read by said scanner means.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A communication system according to claim 11, wherein said first device further comprises scanner means for reading a document and said second device further comprises facsimile transmission means for transmitting data by facsimile, and wherein the operating instruction is an instruction for employing said facsimile transmission means to transmit, to a predetermined destination, image data read by said scanner means.

Claim 16 (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ An image processing communication method of an apparatus that performs ~~[[a]]~~ an image processing service provided by a first operating instruction about image processing and a second operating instruction about image processing in association with a different apparatus accessible across a network, comprising:

- a registration step of registering in advance predetermined registration information for a user who is authorized to use the apparatus;
- an input step of the user inputting user information and ~~a request for~~ the first operating instruction for the different apparatus;
- a first authentication step of employing the user information entered by the user and a registration table, in which the predetermined registration information is registered , to determine whether the first operating instruction is authorized for the user;
- a transmission step of, based on results of said first authentication step, transmitting to the different apparatus the second operating instruction and the user information entered by the user;
- a second authentication step of obtaining from the different apparatus results of an authentication process, performed for the user information transmitted in said transmission step, to determine whether the second operating instruction is authorized for the user; and

a determination step of employing the results obtained in said second authentication step to determine whether the user is to be permitted to use the image processing service.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A communication method according to claim 16, wherein the predetermined registration information in the registration table and the user information each includes at least a user ID and a password.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A communication method according to claim 16, further comprising:

a read step of employing a scanner to read a document,

wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for printing image data read by the scanner using a printer function of the different apparatus.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 16, further comprising:

a read step of employing a scanner to read a document,

wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for storing, in a predetermined area, image data read by the scanner using a storage function of the different apparatus.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A communication method according to claim 16, further comprising:

a read step of employing a scanner to read a document,

wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting, to a predetermined destination, image data read by the scanner by using a facsimile transmission function of the different apparatus.

Claim 21 (currently amended): [[A]] An image processing communication method in which an apparatus connected to a network performs [[a]] an image processing service provided by a first operating instruction about image processing and a second operating instruction about image processing in cooperation with a different apparatus accessible across the network, comprising:

a registration step of registering, in advance, predetermined registration information for a user who is permitted to use the apparatus;

a reception step of receiving, from the different apparatus, user information and a ~~request for~~ the second operating instruction for the apparatus;

an authentication step of employing the user information and a registration table, in which the predetermined registration information is registered, to determine whether the user is an authorized user, wherein the second operating instruction is received after the first operating instruction is authenticated to be performed on the different apparatus; and

a determination step of employing results of said authentication step to determine whether ~~the request for~~ the second operating instruction is to be accepted.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A communication method according to claim 21, wherein the predetermined registration information and the user information each includes at least a user ID and a password.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A communication method according to claim 21, further comprising:

an output step of outputting data to a printer,

wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for outputting, from the printer, image data read by a scanner function of the different apparatus.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A communication method according to claim 21, further comprising:

a storage step of storing data in a storage device,
wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for storing, in the storage device, image data read by a scanner function of the different apparatus.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A communication method according to claim 21, further comprising:

a transmission step of transmitting data by facsimile to a predetermined destination,
wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting, to the predetermined destination, image data read by a scanner function of the different apparatus.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A communication method of a communication system, which includes at least a first image processing device that performs ~~[[a]]~~ an image processing service in association with a second image processing device accessible across a network, comprising:

at the first image processing device:

a first registration step of registering in advance predetermined registration information for a user who is authorized to use the first image processing device;

an input step of the user entering user information and ~~a request for an a~~ first operating instruction for the second image processing device;

a first authentication step of employing the predetermined registration information registered at said first registration step and the user information entered by the user at said input step to determine whether ~~[[a]]~~ the first operating instruction is authorized for the user;

a transmission step of, based on results obtained at said first authentication step, transmitting to the second image processing device the user information and ~~the a second~~ operating instruction about image processing entered ~~at said input step~~, and

at the second image processing device:

a second registration step of registering, in advance, predetermined registration information for a user who is permitted to use the second image processing device ~~to perform a second operating instruction~~;

a reception step of receiving user information and a request for the operating instruction for the second device, both of which are entered by the user at the first device;

a second authentication step of employing the predetermined information registered at said second registration step and the user information received at said reception step to determine whether the second operating instruction is authorized for the user; and

a determination step of employing results obtained at said second authentication step to determine whether ~~the request for the~~ second operating instruction received at said reception step is to be accepted.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A communication method according to claim 26, wherein the predetermined registration information and the user information each includes at least a user ID and a password.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A communication method according to claim 26, further comprising:

a reading step of the first device employing a scanner to read a document; and

an output step of the second device outputting data to a printer,

wherein the operating instruction is an instruction for employing the printer to print image data read by the scanner.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A communication method according to claim 26, further comprising:

a reading step of the first device employing a scanner to read a document; and
a storage step of the second device storing data in a storage device,
wherein the operating instruction is an instruction for storing, in the storage device, image data read by the scanner.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A communication method according to claim 26, further comprising:

a reading step of the first device employing a scanner to read a document;
a transmission step of the second device transmitting data to a predetermined destination by facsimile,
wherein the operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting image data read by the scanner to a predetermined destination by facsimile.

Claim 31 (currently amended): [[A]] An image processing storage medium storing [[a]] an image processing computer-readable program for implementing a communication method of an apparatus that performs a service provided by a first operating instruction about

image processing and a second operating instruction about image processing in association with a different apparatus accessible across a network, wherein the method comprises:

a registration step of registering in advance predetermined registration information for a user who is authorized to use the apparatus;

an input step of the user inputting user information and ~~a request~~ for the first operating instruction for the different apparatus;

a first authentication step of employing the user information entered by the user and a registration table, in which the predetermined registration information is registered, to determine whether the first operating instruction is authorized for the user;

a transmission step of, based on results of said first authentication step, transmitting to the different apparatus the second operating instruction and the user information entered by the user;

a second authentication step of obtaining from the different apparatus results of an authentication process, performed for the user information transmitted in said transmission step, to determine whether the second operating instruction is authorized for the user; and

a determination step of employing the results obtained in said second authentication step to determine whether the user is to be permitted to use the image processing service.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 31,
wherein the predetermined registration information in the registration table and the user
information each includes at least a user ID and a password.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 31,
wherein the method further comprises:

a reading step of employing a scanner to read a document,

wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating
instruction is an instruction for printing image data read by the scanner using a printer function of
the different apparatus.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 31,
wherein the method further comprises:

a reading step of employing a scanner to read a document,

wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating
instruction is an instruction for storing, in a predetermined area, image data read by the scanner
using a storage function of the different apparatus.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 31,
wherein the method further comprises:

a reading step of employing a scanner to read a document,

wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating
instruction is an instruction for transmitting, to a predetermined destination, image data read by
the scanner by using a facsimile transmission function of the different apparatus.

Claim 36 (currently amended): [[A]] An image processing storage medium
storing [[a]] an image processing computer-readable program for implementing a communication
method in which an apparatus connected to a network performs a service provided by a first
operating instruction about image processing and a second operating instruction about image
processing in cooperation with a different apparatus accessible across the network, the method
comprising:

a registration step of registering, in advance, predetermined registration
information for a user who is permitted to use the apparatus;

a reception step of receiving, from the different apparatus, user information and a
request for the second operating instruction for the apparatus;

an authentication step of employing the user information and a registration table,
in which the predetermined registration information is registered, to determine whether the user

is an authorized user, wherein the second operating instruction is received after the first operating instruction is authenticated to be performed on the different apparatus; and

a determination step of employing results of said authentication step to determine whether ~~the request~~ for the second operating instruction is to be accepted.

Claim 37 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 36, wherein the predetermined registration information and the user information each includes at least a user ID and a password.

Claim 38 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 36, wherein the method further comprises:
an output step of outputting data to a printer,
wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for outputting, by the printer, image data read by a scanner function of the different apparatus.

Claim 39 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 36, wherein the method further comprises:

a storage step of storing data in a storage device,

wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for storing, in the storage device, image data read by a scanner function of the different apparatus.

Claim 40 (previously presented): A storage medium according to claim 36, wherein the method further comprises:

a transmission step of transmitting data by facsimile to a predetermined destination,

wherein at least one of the first operating instruction and the second operating instruction is an instruction for transmitting, to the predetermined destination, image data read by a scanner function of the different apparatus.